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A CANADIAN CHRISTMAS
TENORS BUILDING ON SUCCESS {page 14}

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SCARY
LADY GAGA'S CLOSE CALL
DISH {page 17}

VANCOUVER metro®
Thursday, December 23, 2010
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News worth sharing.

Three killed in East Van fire

- Fire broke out at Pandora Street home just before midnight on Tuesday
- Home was being illegally rented as a low-cost rooming house to seven people
- Identities of the victims have not been released

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO

▶ A firefighter surveys the scene of a fatal house fire on Pandora Street yesterday.

Three men have died in an East Vancouver house fire that investigators say was caused by a faulty extension cord plugged into an old set of Christmas lights.

The fire broke out in a back sunroom being used as a bedroom.

"Vancouver Fire has responded to this house 21 times since May 2007 for various calls, mostly for medical emergencies," said Capt. Gabe Roder.

"(There was) one small fire on October 2008, a fire that was caused by smoking-related materials."

KRISTEN THOMPSON

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 3

Local

Affordable housing opens to renters

First lower-income tenants move into suites at Olympic Village {page 3}

Goodbye to bad trends

Shutting the door on 2010 means learning what not to wear anymore {page 18}

You're down to the wire

Last-minute gift ideas for you procrastinators {pages 22-30}

Wings slip past Canucks

Zetterberg's heroics knock out Vancouver in OT {page 31}

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Fire-ravaged house had history

Authorities said they were well acquainted with a Pandora Street home that was destroyed in a Tuesday-night fire that claimed the lives of three of its seven rental occupants.

According to neighbours, the home played host to loud and sometimes alcohol-fuelled gatherings, and emergency personnel visited 21 times in three years.

Despite its notoriety, officials said Tuesday night's fire was purely accidental and not caused by "any underlying condition."

"Over the last few months, the city has been engaged in actions under numerous bylaws including ... the property being illegally rented out as a rooming house," the city said in a press release.

"This landlord has a long history with failure to comply with inspection orders, and will habitually perform the minimum repairs necessary to avoid prosecution."

According to the release, city inspectors hadn't noticed any "critical life safety issues."

"The city was in the process of pursuing further legal action against the landlord — injunction to have the building vacated and revoking the business licence — when the fire occurred."

KRISTEN THOMPSON

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO

▶ The back of a Pandora Street home destroyed by fire.

Olympic Village offers new starts

Area has life again as its doors open to new residents

KIMIYA SHOKOOHI
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA

Vancouver man Kyle Bordage, 37, was getting ready to go to work one morning this July when life as he knew it changed completely.

He suffered a severe stroke, which first put him in the hospital for five months, and then put him in a wheelchair.

He couldn't work. He couldn't make his way around town. He couldn't even get around in his own house.

"It was totally not wheelchair-accessible," said Bordage, now living at a rehabilitation transition house.

Come January, Bordage will be moving into his new wheelchair-friendly low-income housing apartment in the Olympic village, which opened to renters this week.

"I love the place," Bordage said yesterday, during a visit to his new apartment. "It's going to make living almost normal."

Roughly half of the 252 units will be rented as social housing for lower-income tenants; the other half will be rented at market rate to city workers.

The low-income units start at $600 per month, whereas the market-rate units, which are identical, start at $1,600 per month.

"Our goal was to get people in by Christmas and get things set up over the winter," said Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson. "We're getting back on track after a slow summer."

KIMIYA SHOKOOHI/FOR METRO

▶ Kyle Bordage tours his new wheelchair-friendly apartment in the Olympic Village.

1 news

SCANLIFE

Insults, giggling and a whiff of pot smoke among 2010 airport security complaints. Scan code for story.

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On the web at metronews.ca

Familiar chirp at busy crosswalks set to be replaced by the 'Canadian melody.' Video at metronews.ca

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WikiLeak docs detail U.S. take on Olympic prep

Preoccupied with the unprecedented costs and logistics of hosting one of the planet's largest celebrations, Vancouver's entire political, legal and economic order largely revolved around the 2010 Olympics in the lead-up to the Games, a leaked document from the city's U.S. consulate claims.

The February 2009 memo, released by Wikileaks and authored by U.S. Consul-General Phillip Chicola, paints an image of a city with police and politicians thoroughly subordinated to Olympic-related concerns — sometimes at the expense of other issues.

Outrage over the costs of Vancouver's athletes' village was "probably the determining factor" in the 2008 mayoral election, Chicola writes, noting the city's controversial management of the waterfront properties contrasted sharply with the "remarkable financial astuteness" of VANOC.

▶ U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden at the Olympics.

The subsequent removal of longtime city manager Judy Rogers is likewise blamed on village fallout, while a lackadaisical approach to drug enforcement is attributed to a redirection of RCMP resources to Olympic security.

Much is also made of Canada's unsuccessful efforts to secure President Barack Obama's presence at the Games' opening ceremonies, a matter Chicola says he was asked about at "every meeting" with Canadian officials.

J.J. MCCULLOUGH

SURREY

Air fresheners lead to coke bust

Border guards in Surrey were tipped off to a stash of cocaine hidden in the cab of a semi trailer because it was stuffed with pine tree air fresheners, authorities say.

According to RCMP Const. Michael McLaughlin, Canadian Border Services Agency officers found $1.5 million worth of cocaine at the Pacific Highway Border Crossing.

A 44-year-old Surrey man was arrested.

"This file is somewhat unusual because large amounts of drugs are not normally concealed in the cab of a commercial truck," McLaughlin said.

"One of the reasons is that the smell of acetone, which is used to cut the cocaine, can be quite distinct. A thorough search revealed a total of 13 air fresheners in the cab."

KRISTEN THOMPSON

Games credited for tourism spike

Domestic visitors from within B.C. remain Vancouver's largest tourist base ◐ Britons represented largest number of non-U.S. foreign visitors

J.J. MCCOLLOUGH
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA

If the goal was bringing more visitors to Vancouver, then the 2010 Olympics achieved significant results — at least in the short term — the city's tourism board reported Tuesday.

Credited to the draw of the Games, Vancouver saw more than 6.6 million tourists between the months of January and September 2010, representing a three per cent increase from 2009.

Despite the international appeal, however, the vast majority of the city's visitors were other Canadians, numbering just more than four million. Americans ranked second, at 1.5 million, though their rate did not represent a significant increase from the previous year.

Visitors from outside North America spiked by approximately 14 per cent, with a substantial increase in visitors from traditional winter Olympic strongholds such as Austria, whose tourist numbers jumped 39 per cent from 2009, and Switzerland (up 18 per cent).

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO

▶ A couple arrives at YVR this August as part of the first tour group from China after Canada received approved destination status from that country.

Even with the Olympics, summer remained Vancouver's most popular season, with August and July numbers frequently more than doubling the number of tourists who visited during January and February.

Visitors to Vancouver in 2010, compared to 2009

Malaysians	Mexicans	American tourists to Vancouver	Cruise ship departures	Visitor centre assistance	August and September tourists	June and July tourists	January and February
+ 44%	- 26%	Even	- 33%	+ 350%	- 63%	+ 74%	+ 84%

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News in brief

Schools a factor for rich homebuyers

STUDY. A recent UBC study has found that only the wealthy concern themselves with the quality of local schools when shopping for a home in Vancouver. Those shopping for houses in the top 25 per cent of the market are willing to pay a premium for education.

Polar Bear Swim returns

ENGLISH BAY. Bust into 2011 by taking a dip in English Bay. The 91st annual Polar Bear Swim is scheduled for New Year's Day at 2:30 p.m. Last year, almost 2,000 people took part in the chilly swim.

Arrest in theft at warehouse

CRIME. Vancouver police have arrested a 46-year-old man after he allegedly broke into a warehouse in the 400 block of Alexander Street and attempted to steal a cartload of property. The man was apprehended at the scene by a police service dog as he attempted to flee.

Youth held after stabbing

CRIME. A 17-year-old is in custody after a man in his 20s was stabbed in New Westminster Tuesday around 9 p.m. The victim was taken to hospital where he underwent surgery for his injuries.

Broadcaster dies of cancer

CARSON. News and sports broadcaster Paul Carson succumbed Tuesday night after an 11-month battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 60 years old. Carson was one of the founders of Team 1040, a popular sports radio station.

SARAH N. FITZGERALD

Helping hands for the homeless

Group has raised several carloads of clothing donations from across the Lower Mainland

SARAH N. FITZGERALD
VANCOUVER@METRONEWS.CA

Operation Triple H is underway. Its mission: To deliver wooly warmth to those most in need this holiday season.

Organized by Vancouver native Victoria Risario, the group of friends set its sights on collecting as many coats, sweaters, mitts, scarves, toques and other cold-weather gear as it could muster.

"Our goal was to create 75 care packages ... for the homeless," said Risario, who thought up the idea because she wanted to do something special for the homeless on Christmas Eve.

The group's members chose to seek out items of clothing in part because many people are still suffering economic woes, but also because they "wanted to personally be part of the charitable drive," said Amanda Langstroth, a fellow organizer.

Triple H will head into Vancouver's Downtown Eastside tomorrow evening and hand out bottles of water, granola bars and bags of clothing to any homeless people they meet until the donations run out.

For more news, visit metronews.ca/vancouver

KAT MARCHINKO/CONTRIBUTED

▶ From left, Amanda Langstroth, Kate Rose, Victoria Risario and Kaylee Willier put together care packages of warm clothing for the homeless Tuesday night.

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Liberals jockey for support in leadership race

Gordon Campbell announced his resignation in November B.C. leadership convention set for Feb. 26

As contenders for the B.C. Liberal leadership compete against each other for votes, they are also campaigning for high-profile endorsements from their caucus and cabinet colleagues.

The latest candidate to boast high-profile Liberal support is Kevin Falcon, who won the public support of Public Safety Minister Rich Coleman.

Coleman, who was himself considered a potential leadership candidate, says Falcon has been a trustworthy colleague who will be able to reconnect with voters and keep the embattled party united.

JEFF HODSON/METRO FILE

▶ Rich Coleman

Other candidates have also been trumpeting their support, notably former cabinet minister George Abbott, who has been sending out regular news releases announcing each caucus member who has decided to back him.

Abbott has a list of about a dozen of his colleagues that he counts among his supporters.

The other leadership candidates are former cabinet ministers Mike de Jong and Moira Stilwell, and cabinet-minister-turned-radio-host Christy Clark, who announced her candidacy alongside Liberal caucus member Harry Bloy.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Doggy. Santa

▶ Scotty, a Pekinese-Chihuahua cross, chills out in a Santa hoodie at Barking Babies boutique in Yaletown yesterday.

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO

Christmas going to the dogs

With two days left until Christmas, even pets are getting into the season and can be spotted walking around town in white-rimmed red coats, reindeer antlers and even plaid pyjamas.

Police search for Kensington groper

Police are on the lookout for a teen believed to have sexually assaulted a Kensington-area woman Tuesday night. The woman told police she was followed, pulled to the ground, and groped before she forcibly escaped. The incident occurred on East 43rd Avenue, near Victoria Drive.

J.J. MCCULLOUGH

Provinces win right to regulate in-vitro fertilization

Justice Thomas Cromwell offers determining view in split vote Says many provisions fall under provinces

A divided Supreme Court of Canada has upheld the right of the provinces to regulate in-vitro fertilization. But the court said the federal government is within its rights in banning cloning and human hybrids.

The court issued a divided advisory opinion that grappled with the "weighty moral concerns" of assisted reproduction. It upheld in part a 2008 Quebec Court of Appeal decision that declared Ottawa overstepped itself in asserting its right to regulate the use of human sperm, eggs and embryos.

The court split 4-4-1 with Justice Thomas Cromwell offering the determining view in what amounted to a complex analysis of the time-honoured constitutional rights of provinces to control health care.

Quebec filed a constitutional challenge to the 2004 federal Assisted Human Reproduction Act and was supported by three other provinces. The province argued that Ottawa was treading on provincial jurisdiction over health care.

The act regulated the use of sperm, eggs and embryos, while banning clones and hybrids. Ottawa maintained it had the right to make criminal laws and that the purpose of the act was to protect the "health, safety and public morals" of Canadians.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Power imbalance

- Justices Louis Lebel and Marie Deschamps wrote that although assisted human reproduction "raises moral and ethical questions," an overriding federal criminal law was not justified.

Christmas. Miracle

▶ In a photo taken earlier this month, Tracy Hermanstorfer watches as Coltyn offers dad Mike Hermanstorfer a bite of a french fry at their home in Colorado Springs, Colo.

ED ANDRIESKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Happy to be alive, one year later

Tracy Hermanstorfer, now 34, went into cardiac arrest while preparing to give birth to Coltyn at Memorial Hospital in Colorado Springs on Dec. 24, 2009. Doctors quickly delivered Coltyn by emergency Cesarean section, but he appeared lifeless. Mike Hermanstorfer, who was at his wife's side when her heart stopped beating, thought he had lost both her and their newborn son. But doctors revived Coltyn as Hermanstorfer cradled him in his arms, and about 45 minutes later, a nurse told him his wife's pulse had inexplicably returned.

Mayor had alliance: WikiLeaks

A U.S. diplomatic cable released by WikiLeaks says the mayor of Kingston, Jamaica, has acknowledged forging an alliance of convenience with an alleged drug baron to reduce crime in the sprawling slums. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Potential pardon stirs outrage

Did governor promise Billy the Kid pardon for testimony? Scan or go to metronews.ca for story.

Family loses home in fire

A family in Brantford, Ont., has lost their home and their puppies in a fire.

Brant County firefighters were on the scene for more than 12 hours as the blaze roared through a farmhouse overnight.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Border drills raise Korea tensions

Massive exercise will involve 800 troops 33 kilometres south of border

South Korea vowed yesterday to "completely punish" North Korea if it attacks again, and mobilized hundreds of troops, tanks and helicopters for a massive military exercise prompted by high tensions on the peninsula.

The firing drills planned for today near the Koreas' heavily armed land border signalled that South Korea is willing to risk further escalating tensions with North Korea, which shelled a southern island off the western coast on Nov. 23 and stirred up a war-like atmosphere.

The attack, which killed four people, was portrayed by Pyongyang as a retaliation for southern military exercises on Yeonpyeong Island that day.

South Korea has conducted 47 similar military drills this year, and it scheduled one more exercise for today in response to the North Korean attack, an army officer said on condition of anonymity, citing department rules. Today's drill will be the biggest-ever wintertime joint firing exercise that South Korea's army and air force have staged, an army statement said.

"We will completely punish the enemy if it provokes us again like the shelling of Yeonpyeong Island," Brig. Gen. Ju Eun-sik, chief of the army's 1st armoured brigade, said separately.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Big snow. U.S. west

▶ Cross country skiers in Crested Butte, Colo., yesterday.

NATHAN BILOW/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

There's more coming

The U.S. National Weather Service has posted a winter storm warning for areas in Utah and the western mountains of Colorado. Flood warnings are also posted in Southern California from the same storm that reached from Hawaii to Colorado earlier this week.

Heathrow boss forfeits bonus

Heathrow's boss announced yesterday he would give up his hefty bonus this year after the world's busiest international airport was crippled by snowy conditions. Air and train travel throughout Europe have now finally began to return to normal.

Temperatures have picked up in Britain and about 70 per cent of Heathrow's planned departures — some 900 flights — were expected to operate yesterday.

Airlines are trying to clear a backlog of cancelled flights, after iced-over runways and planes triggered days of chaos and misery for those seeking to travel elsewhere for Christmas.

Eurostar, which offers train services between England, France and Belgium, said routes were operating a near-normal schedule. Still, it urged only customers with tickets to show up at terminals.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Law ends 'don't ask, don't tell'

Declaring that members of the U.S. military will no longer be asked to lie, President Barack Obama fulfilled a campaign promise yesterday and signed a landmark law repealing the ban on gay men and women serving openly in the armed services.

17 The new law affecting the military ends the 17-year-old "don't ask, don't tell" policy that forced gays to hide their sexual orientation or face dismissal.

The signing ceremony was a breakthrough moment for the U.S. gay community, the military and for Obama himself. The president vowed during his 2008 campaign to repeal the law. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Suncor fined for discharge into Alberta river

Penalty imposed the same day that Ottawa promises to improve oilsands environmental monitoring

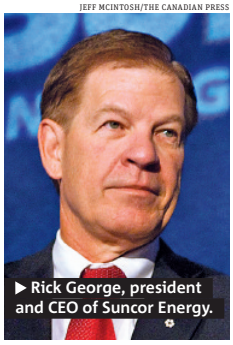
Oilsands giant Suncor has been fined $200,000 for dumping material harmful to fish into a northern Alberta river.

Suncor Energy Inc. was fined Tuesday after pleading guilty to federal Fisheries Act charges.

Environment Canada says the fine was for the release of effluent in 2008 from sediment ponds built as part of Suncor operations near the Steepbank River north of Fort McMurray.

The material in the water was clay and other natural materials and did not include oilsands or tailings pond effluent, Mike Bell, an Environment Canada spokesman said yesterday.

JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ Rick George, president and CEO of Suncor Energy.

"It was not tailings ponds, it was total suspended solids — matter suspended in water," Bell said. "It is deleterious to fish because it interrupts their respiration and can impact habitat as well."

Much of the fine will be paid into the federal government's Environmental Damages Fund.

Suncor said it accepts full responsibility for what happened and reached an agreement with the federal Crown on the fine.

"We certainly regret that this incident happened," Suncor spokesman Brad Bellows said.

"We are happy that there was no impact to the environment. But the fact remains that we didn't meet regulatory standards."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Sears

Economy faces risks: Report

Canada's economy will grow by about 2.3% next year, unemployment will remain at 7.9%: IMF

The risks to Canada's economic recovery are increasing and could curtail growth in the future, the International Monetary Fund warns in a new outlook for the country.

Overall, the fund's end-of-the-year report on Canada gives a generally positive assessment, especially in comparison to other countries.

But it cited several "key risks" that could restrain the recovery and growth in employment, including an overheated housing market, high household debt and the weak recovery in the U.S.

"It's important to remain vigilant to any risks that could emerge. ...we have confidence that the authorities are very much on the same page."
CHARLES KRAMER,
IMF CANADIAN MISSION CHIEF

"Risks are elevated and tilted to the downside with high household debt levels the main domestic risk, and a weaker U.S. outlook the largest external risk," the report states.

In a conference call, IMF Canadian mission chief Charles Kramer said the good news is that an economic collapse in Canada is not the most likely scenario, and if a downturn were to occur, Ottawa and the Bank of Canada have room to respond.

He noted that, unlike other countries, the central bank's policy interest rate is at one per cent — not zero — so governor Mark Carney has room to cut.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Magnate. Corporate compromise

▶ Magna's Frank Stronach speaks in Markham, Ont., in this May photo.

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stronach settles with shareholders

The battle between Magna International founder Frank Stronach and minority shareholders of MI Developments Inc. has ended in a truce that will give him ownership of several racetracks in exchange for control of the company, according to a report. It was reported that MI Developments' minority shareholders will take control of the company and its real estate.

Market moment

DOLLAR
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(98.60¢ US)

Natural gas 1,000 cu ft
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(+ 9.3¢)

Gold contracts
$1,387.40
(– $1.40)

OIL
+ 66¢ US
($90.48 US)

TSX
+ 15.55
(13,380.70)

PRESS STAFF, THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian firms set for buying spree: Report

The high loonie, increasing demand for goods in Asia and companies looking to spend their idle cash will lead to more mergers and takeovers involving Canadian businesses next year after a slight dip in 2010, according to business consultants and auditing firm KPMG.

6.8B The biggest single Canadian deal completed this year was the $6.8-billion US acquisition of Red Back Mining by Kinross Gold Corp.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

WHAT'S A TRADITION WITHOUT TRADITION?

He says ...

JOHN MAZEROLLE

It's that special time of year when columnists write irritating clichés like "it's that special time of year."

I'm contributing to the ritual this year because it's become clear I don't have enough annual traditions.

I've fought against repeating myself my whole life: When the bartender knows what I want, it's time for a new drink. When I'm starting to enjoy a job, it's time to move. When it seems I've settled on a toothpaste, it's time to brush around. (Keep it under your cap, but Crest and Colgate don't even know about each other.)

This approach gives me the benefit of feeling like my life is tumultuous even when it's stagnant — the life equivalent of splashing in the bathtub.

I do have a few traditions, but nothing reassuring: I bang my hip on the corner of the kitchen table with the precision and regularity of the Queen's Guard. I watch the Boston Bruins lose in the playoffs, like clockwork, every spring. And every time I'm in my hometown my best friend and I go to a major fast food chain and order the "special" burger of the moment. I eat it first and describe in detail just how horrible it is, then he eats it and agrees.

"This approach gives me the benefit of feeling like my life is tumultuous even when it's stagnant ..."

You see why I would want some more heartwarming (not heart-burning) traditions.

My Christmases are not consistent, except that they keep getting worse. This year it's my only day off, with five days of work on one side and six on the other. Ho ho ho.

And I grew up with all the traditions: Warm house; stockings; presents; food; family; mother yelling, "Why can't we have a nice Christmas?!" and running off to cry. (That happened twice, which makes it tradition.)

I need some of that again. So here are a few Yuletide rituals I'm considering:

• Join the Christians who complain that the words "Happy Holidays" are an assault on their faith, rather than an attempt to include other faiths. I'm not Christian, but it's fun to be the underdog, especially when you number two billion.

• Recreate the big family Christmas. Set up a huge table with 12 place settings, all the trimmings, decorations, and a children's table off to the side. Then sit at it alone in contemplative silence.

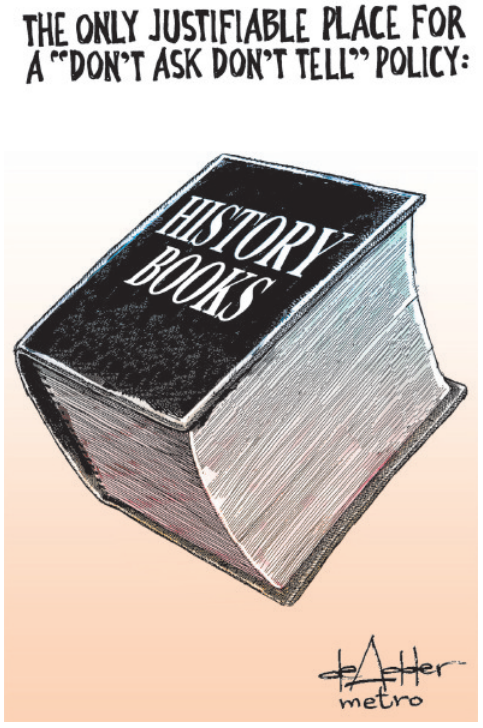
• End the annual Christmas column with irritating clichés like, "Best of the season to you and yours" and "Merry Christmas."

Oh, and best of the season to you and yours. Merry Christmas!

Read more of John Mazerolle's columns at metronews.ca/hesays

Cartoon

MICHAEL DE ADDER



Certainly not child's play

Worth mentioning

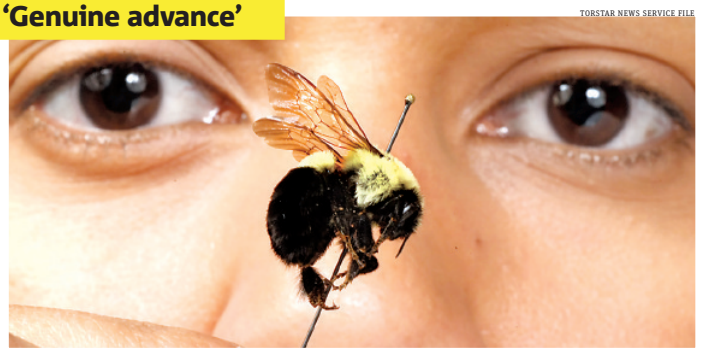
It came with wobbly writing and hand-drawn diagrams, but an elementary school science project has made it into a peer-reviewed journal from Britain's prestigious Royal Society.

Biology Letters published a report yesterday conducted and written by a group of eight- to 10-year-olds from an English elementary school investigating the way bumblebees see colours and patterns.

The scientific organization said the children reported findings that were a "genuine advance" in the field of insect colour and pattern vision.

'Genuine advance'

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE



Working with a neuroscientist from University College London, the children carefully documented their methodology and discussed the data they collected.

The group trained bees to go to targets of different colours by giving them a sugar reward, and reported that the insects are able to learn and remember cues based on colour and pattern. Scientists who commented on the kids' report in the journal say although the experiments were modest and lacked statistical analyses, they were cleverly and correctly designed and hold their own compared to those conducted by highly trained specialists. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

What was your favourite memory of 2010?

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Metro Minute with Yared Nigussu

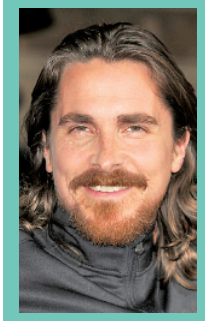
Want to witness outstanding live art by a celebrated Vancouver-based artist? Come watch as Yared Nigussu's paints come to life. Born in Ethiopia, Nigussu studied in France and now paints portraits in Vancouver. Tonight is his fifth performance, painting portraits of attendees on huge canvasses and expressing the beauty and mystery of human faces to the rhythm of live music. Visitors can watch his lively paintings while drinking wine and snacking on appetizers. Nigussu performs today from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Hayden Beck Gallery (122-4293 Mountain Square) in Whistler. Admission is free. Visit haydenbeckgallery.com for more info. AYAKA KAWAI

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Yared Nigussu will paint portraits of attendees today at the Hayden Beck Gallery in Whistler.

2 scene

Scene in brief



Christian Bale will star in Chinese filmmaker Zhang Yimou's new project about 13 young prostitutes who help save compatriots from Japanese troops rampaging Nanjing, the latest film exploring a World War II-era atrocity that stirs nationalism in China.

Bale, currently co-starring in the boxing drama The Fighter, will portray an American priest in the movie, which is expected to start filming in Nanjing on Jan. 10, the Chinese director told reporters yesterday.

Bale was picked because of his versatility and dedication to his roles, Zhang said, noting he was impressed by the research Bale did into the history of the massacre.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CBS to bring 3 rookie series aboard for midseason; Blue Bloods, Rules get new slots

DAMIAN DOVARGANES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ The Canadian Tenors, from left, Fraser Walters, Clifton Murray, Victor Micallef and Remigio Pereira. With help from Oprah Winfrey, success-crammed 2010 was a 'Perfect Gift' for the popera quartet.

The ultimate bromance

By late 2009 the Canadian Tenors had built a solid homegrown following
Group's popularity skyrocketed after they appeared on the Oprah show

A year after releasing their first hit album, the Canadian Tenors are delivering The Perfect Gift, a compilation of traditional and contemporary holiday music.

"You have the classics like O Holy Night and Silent Night, but there are songs that are not necessarily Christmas-specific," explained tenor Victor Micallef. "Some great producers worked on that, as well," added band mate Clifton Murray. Hallelujah was (produced by) Bob Ezrin, who worked on The Wall.

That's as in Pink Floyd's The Wall — just one of many aspects of The Tenors that may surprise. The quartet's clean-cut, all-North American looks scream "pre-fab," and, indeed, the band was the brainchild of Canadian composer Jill Ann Siemens, who first started work on the project some 10 years ago. The current configuration of the group is Victor Micallef, Clifton Murray, Remigio Pereira and Fraser Walters.

"We started grassroots and just slowly built up. We cut our teeth on the road doing that."
CANADIAN TENOR REMIGIO PEREIRA

The recent holiday album was released in October, months after the group's debut album The Canadian Tenors ranked at the top of Billboard's Classical Albums chart.

Before making inroads in the U.S., Pereira said, the group did 12 shows in 12 small towns in western Saskatchewan.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Joined at the hip

The Canadian Tenors spend more time together on the road than they do with their families these days.

- **The four** wrapped up their 2010 tour schedule Tuesday night in Fort Worth, Texas.
- **They plan** to head back north, to the singers' respective homes for the holidays.

Kenny vs. Spenny quarrel through the holidays

In this season of peace-on-earth and goodwill-toward-men, leave it to longstanding rivals Kenny Hotz and Spencer Rice to flout the holidays with the cruellest Christmas show they can muster.

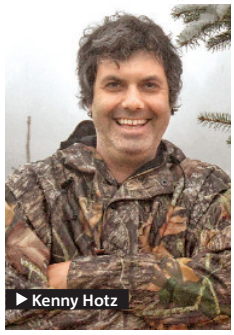
The Kenny vs. Spenny Christmas Special presents the outrageous frenemies at their festive worst, and marks the duo's final showdown as they wrap their outlandish series after six seasons.

"We couldn't keep going. Our relationship is hanging by a thread as it is."
SPENCER RICE

"Spenny killed it. Spenny killed the show — he didn't want to do it anymore, he's a quitter," Hotz says in a recent interview at a downtown cafe, seated next to Rice.

"Not true," Rice interjects. "I didn't want to do it from season one ... but I didn't kill it.... We both, at the exact same moment and time, decided, 'Enough.'"

CONTRIBUTED



▶ Kenny Hotz

True to form, the divisive duo can't help but quarrel until the bitter end.

Kenny vs. Spenny ends its run after 87 episodes that included crass challenges such as "Who can wear a dead octopus on their head the longest?" (to name one of the duo's less raunchy competitions, many of which are unprintable).

Invariably, the wise-cracking Kenny stooped to underhanded tactics to assure himself victory and the right to inflict the most indignant humiliation he could on his more scrupulous and sensitive partner. The Kenny vs. Spenny Christmas Special airs today on Showcase.

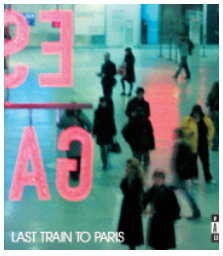
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Album reviews

A classic | Buy it | Get the single | Borrow it | Don't bother

Ghostface Killah
Album: Apollo Kids
Label: Def Jam
●●●●½
After subjecting us to a deadpan R&B experiment a year ago, Ghostface gets back on track with his ninth album. Even without RZA behind the boards, Apollo Kids manages to evoke Wu-Tang's classic era. Ghost's raucous street-smart narratives are as inspired as ever over an assortment of dusty soul samples. He still manages to outdo his contemporaries with a nostalgia trip that's as raw and poised as anything he's done. **Outstanding track:** Troublemakers
● CAM LINDSAY

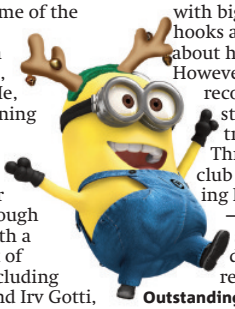
Jamie Foxx
Album: Best Night of My Life
Label: Sony
●●½
Jamie Foxx has discovered that "martini" rhymes with "bikini" which is about as deep as it gets on the latest from the Oscar-winning movie star with the silken voice. This is Hollywood hip hop at its most familiar. It gets a tad tedious listening to Foxx tell us over and over again what a great guy he is ... as he does with the help of Justin Timberlake on the chart-targeted track, Winner (and several other tracks here). Okay, Jamie, we get the message. Foxx is best here when he's on the woo, as in his duet with Drake in Fall For Your Type. A little humility can go a long way.
Outstanding track: Winner (with Justin Timberlake)
● GRAHAM ROCKINGHAM



Diddy-Dirty Money
Album: Last Train To Paris
Label: Bad Boy
●●●
"This is a brand new sound. This will change your life." For Diddy, this promise is at least half true. Last Train To Paris sees this long gestating concept album come to life through his new group featuring singers Dawn Richards and Kaleena Harper. With gaudy production and a heavy guest list, Diddy's "electro-hip-hop-soul-funk" vision is ambitious, but derails when Diddy isn't in full control. Last Train To Paris won't change your life, but at least it's a fun ride.
Outstanding track: Shades
● CAM LINDSAY

Stereos
Album: Uncontrollable
Label: Universal
●½
Stereos is Canadian kiddy rock, music planned for young girls not long weaned off the Doodlebops. These season-one Disband stars sing a song called Girls in the Club for tweens still several years away from ever realistically gaining entrance to one. It's boy band music wrapped in a punk veneer. Track two is a particularly aggravating song horribly misnamed Attitude. in which singer Pat Kordyback almost summons up the courage to say the word "ass." He never does, of course. Too risqué.
Outstanding track: Yeah Yeah Yeah
● GRAHAM ROCKINGHAM

Keyshia Cole
Album: Calling all Hearts
Label: Universal
●●●



Keyshia Cole's latest does away with some of the more upbeat pop found on her 2008 disc, A Different Me, instead returning to the slow burning soul jams found on her earlier albums. Although she works with a whole whack of producers including Timbaland and Irv Gotti, the disc is fairly consistent — it's loaded with big, soaring hooks and songs about her family. However, while the record starts strong — title track I Ain't Thru is a catchy club track featuring Nicki Minaj — too many slow songs drag the record down.
Outstanding track: I Ain't Thru ● BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI

Keri Hilson
Album: No Boys Allowed
Label: Universal
●●●
Despite the title of Keri Hilson's latest disc, the record is filled with collaborations from the boys including Timbaland, Kanye and Chris Brown. Hilson, however, should have stuck to using her own voice. It sometimes feels like the accomplished songwriter, who only contributed her writing skills to five of 11 songs, has gone missing. The Rihanna-like soul pop is fun but that's all it is. **Outstanding track:** Buyou
● BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI

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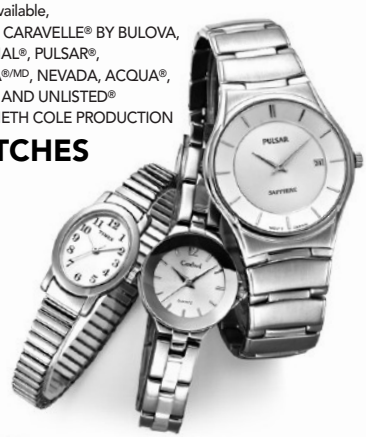

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▶ Lindsay Lohan

Clinic worker fired for talking to press about Lohan incident

A worker at the Betty Ford Center is speaking out after being dismissed following an incident with Lindsay Lohan.

Dawn Holland tells TMZ Lohan was drunk and violent returning to her sober-living facility after curfew one night, while Lohan claims she was sober and Holland was abusive to her.

While an investigation is underway, Holland was fired from the rehab clinic for violating a confidentiality agreement when she spoke with TMZ.

"The story was already way out there in the open before I spoke," Holland says. METRO

Zac leans on friends to deal with breakup

While dealing with his split from Vanessa Hudgens, Zac Efron has reportedly been "leaning" on his The Lucky Ones co-star Taylor Schilling while they film in Louisiana, according to E! News.

"They joke around, eat together sometimes, run lines," says an on-set source. "Nothing out of the ordinary."

Others speculate there's more going on between the two.

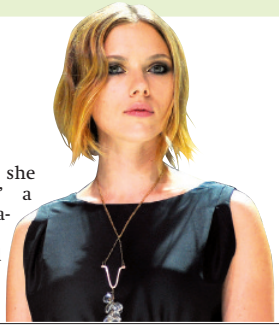
Meanwhile, another source suggests Efron's recently-single pal and co-star Kellan Lutz may be partially to blame for the split, as Efron recently fell in with Lutz's group of friends. "They are a rowdy bunch, and I think that's influenced him to want to be free," the source says. METRO

Scarlett-Ryan split wasn't much of a secret: Sources

While the split between Ryan Reynolds and Scarlett Johansson may have come as a shock to many, Reynolds reportedly wasn't shy about discussing his marital woes while on the set of his next big film, The Green Lantern, according to a report in Us Weekly.

Reynolds was "open on set that he and Scarlett were having problems" and "would say that she treated him badly," a source tells the magazine.

"It never seemed like she made him a priority." METRO



News in brief

Brangelina has Pinsky worried

ADVICE. Dr. Drew Pinsky is fearing the worst for Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie's relationship, given remarks each have made, including Jolie's admissions of past drug abuse and Pitt's "demeaning attitude towards other people's emotions," according to the Huffington Post.

"Put those two people together and you have got a really volatile situation," Pinsky says. "They're constantly creating things to weld themselves together, which is only going to serve to make a more nuclear eruption. There will be some sort of meltdown that will be phenomenal when it does happen." METRO

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Lady Gaga stalker caught backstage

24-year-old woman reportedly already known to Gaga's team

Lady Gaga got quite a scare in London when a stalker reportedly got backstage and nearly made it to the singer, according to Hollyscoop.

"Gaga was understandably shaken by the incident but was a consummate professional and continued as per normal, putting on a dazzling show," a source says of her show at the 02 arena.

The unidentified 24-year-old apparently made a fake backstage pass to get past security and was found heading for Gaga's dressing room. She was questioned and released.

Last month, Gaga reportedly obtained a restraining order against another crazed female fan, a Russian student living in New York.

METRO

▶ Lady Gaga

Russell, Katy have ways to keep the magic alive

Katy Perry says she and Russell Brand are finding that the secret to keeping a happy marriage between two working celebrities is being strict about schedules — and adventurous in the bedroom.

"We're both busy, but this is a huge part of my life. I call the shots on my schedule," she tells Grazia magazine. "There are weekends for Russ and weekends for me and my friends. Neither of us ever wants to lose ourself or the other in fame."

As for how they spend those weekends? "I have secrets and magic tricks, of course. I can't share them because then you'd all know," she says. "But let's just say I'm not shy."

METRO

Celebrity tweets

Joel McHale My 2yr old keeps declaring w/great merriment "Happy Stupid, Happy stupid!!!". I think we'll start celebrating that holiday as well.

Ashley Tisdale Busy and crazy day today..... I'm officially on my Christmas break! Now in bed watching house hunters

Andy Richter [@Richter_Andy] At son's Episcopal school Christmas service. Ending's always the same; baby Jesus wins.

Aziz Ansari Damn. Forgot to hire babies off Craigslist to pose as my fake children in my Christmas card again this year.

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MAD MEN STYLE

Red-carpet-friendly Badgley Mischka taps Rumer Willis as new ad model

Thank God that one's over

We polled readers from Canada to Italy to find out which trends you never want to see again in 2011 Here are the results

As the year — and technically an entire decade depending on which math you use — draws to a close, it's only natural to reflect on the past. On the fashion front, 2010 presented highs and lows.

You loved fashion's return to wearable clothes such as the Céline-fueled minimalist trend. But the invasion of jeggings? Not so much.

We polled readers in nine countries where we are published, to find out which trends you'd love to bury for good in the new year.

METRO WORLD NEWS

"I'm tired of heels so high and over-embellished that they should only be worn by drag queens."
A METRO READER

Ridiculously tall platforms heels

They may look great on the runway, in a music video or on a street style blog, but they're difficult to walk in and often hurt. Maybe that's why über tall shoes are overwhelmingly the least popular trend among Metro readers — except the Italian ones.

82% of our readers in Italy love sky-high heels.

Trucker hats

Ages ago, Pharrell Williams made them cool. Then, Ashton Kutcher made them popular. Now, they're the accessory of choice for cheeseballs everywhere —still. .

Goth style

Times are dark enough. Why dress that way too? Based on our survey results, you're ready to kill the goth look.

82% AND **80%** OF OUR CANADIAN AND U.S. READERS DEPLORE HAREM PANTS

Harem pants

Fashionistas associate dhoti trousers with Givenchy couture. But most people just think of Hammer Time. Americans and Canadians have the least tolerance for drop crotch pants.

Crocs

Let's face it. The rainbow coloured rubber clogs only *really* make sense on very small children. The Dutch, surprisingly, hate them the most.

69% of our Dutch readers would banish Crocs from the earth

46% OF OUR HUNGARIAN READERS THINK BALLET SLIPPER FLATS ARE TOTALLY LAST YEAR

Ballet slipper flats

A timeless classic or overexposed bore? If you ask our Hungarian and Danish readers, the comfy shoes are the latter.

44% OF OUR U.S. READERS THINK UGGS ARE VILE

Ugg boots

They bother us for a number of reasons. At the top of our list: the irritating sliding noise they make when you walk around in them.

Leggings, weggings and jeggings

The knit, wet look and denim variety drive our French and Hungarian readers batty.

Honourable mentions: 1. Jeans with bling 2. Ed Hardy "jerk shirts" 3. Sex and the City

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A resolution of home decor

New Year's resolution: To be the perfect decorator and have the perfect home

DECOR MOMENT

KARL LOHNES
HOME@
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It's nearing the end of the year and my resolutions are piling up: Lose weight, eat healthy, live a stress-less life. But my biggest resolution is to complete all the small decorating projects that have been lingering since the renovation of my house last year.

Drapes in the dining room, a new faucet in the guest bathroom and a carpet runner for the upstairs hallway are just a few. Here's a list of other forgotten decor chores that could use some updating, all of which will make me a hipper decorator, I'm sure.

UPDATING MY LOOK

It's time to re-frame a few older pieces of art; the ones with the 1970's frames are in desperate need of a facelift. A simple frame with a soft, metallic sheen (either silver or gold) can make any piece of art feel updated. I'm digging out the measuring tape, making sure that all my art is hung approximately 66 inches from the floor to the middle of the art. Lowering my artwork will actually make my ceilings look taller (great design trick) and give it new perspective.

BEING A WARMER PERSON

My dining room window desperately needs fabric and the master bedroom needs some warming up. I'm thinking of a lightweight plain wool fabric with a coloured ribbon sewn onto the inside edge and across the bottom.

Having my drapes lined in polar-fleece type fabric will give them a full body, block sun and provide great installation from the heat and cold.

GETTING IN SHAPE

I have a beautiful dining table but it's not the right shape for the space I've allotted for dinner parties. My space is square, therefore I need a round or square-shaped table.

My fabulous oval table is overbearing in the square space and should find a new home in a longer, rectangular room. My ideal table would have a pedestal base. Corner legs tend to get in the way when squeezing extra guests at the table.

BECOMING HIP

It's time for an update ... My Barely There alabaster-coloured paint is washing itself out and my walls are crying for more umph! I'm thinking about giving into the trend of darker walls and a rich, warm grey will add drama and cool down all the neutral taupe, brown and cream that I have collected in sofas, area rugs and wood furniture.

Perhaps a few new pillows, lampshades and glass vases in colours like bright yellow or purple will help keep my living room on trend without a huge investment.

What is your decorating resolution for this year? Is it to add more personality to your space, to complete the furnishings or to add a new colour to the walls? I'd love to hear about your plans and projects so please send a photo (I always love to see ugly before shots) and a short description of your decorating projects to home@metronews.ca.

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Go small on NYE

Some tips for throwing a small, stylish NYE party

Maybe it's because of cost, space or just overall effort, but many people prefer hosting a smaller New Year's Eve get-together rather than a grand affair. Still, they want to send off the old year in memorable style.

E-vites are a free, convenient way to get the word out.

Web invitation sites let you track RSVPs, and provide a map with directions for your guests.

A traditional paper invite, however, is a nice touch. Make sure you're clear about details, including what will be served — is it dinner or just appetizers? Dress up or just show up?

Matching your invitation to your party's style scheme — elegant, free-wheeling or nostalgic cosy — will set the tone.

The invitation's a talisman that helps guests prepare for the evening.

Style at Home magazine's editor Christine O'Hanlon suggests picking a colour scheme for the party and sticking to it. Ikea's blue and white star dish and paper goods collection would suit a dressy or casual affair.

Ballard Designs has some fun safari-print serving ware. Pier 1's colourful, striped glassware and candlesticks have a festive vibe.

Canadian interior designer Candice Olson, who is working on a new HGTV behind-the-design series, Candice Tells All, shares some easy, creative party ideas:

Switch it up

Turn the Christmas tree into a "New Year's Eve Tree" by removing the Santa and reindeer ornaments and replacing them with party favours — hats, streamers and colourful beads.

Time to party

"Utilize a countdown theme, and play with numbers as decorating ideas," says Olson. "Apply stick-on numbers to glasses (it's a good way to know whose glass is whose), serve number-cut cookies, and put adhesive numbers on pillar candles. Use an inexpensive roll of white art paper, cut to fit the length of your table. Stencil or paint oversize numbers down the centre for an eye-catching table display." She suggests setting out a group of vintage alarm clocks on a small table, all set to ring at midnight.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Dirty Apron is a deli to die for

Chef Nico Schuermans has concocted five baguette sandwiches so tender, they melt in your mouth

ERIN IRELAND

▶ Confit Albacore Tuna Baguette and Squash Feta Walnut Salad

LUNCH RUSH

ERIN IRELAND
FOOD@METRONEWS.CA

Who knew a sandwich could melt in your mouth? Chef Nico Schuermans of the new Dirty Apron Delicatessen (and also of Chambar) has created baguette sandwiches that are simply out of this world.

No doubt, their specialness has something to do with the bread, which is baked in-house, every hour.

Each of the five options called my name (more like screamed), but I settled on the Confit Albacore Tuna Baguette ($8).

Its lemony, olive oil-soaked meat was so fresh and tender, it was silky.

Blanketing this was a perfectly pungent layer of house-made black olive tapenade, lime tarragon mayo and a sprinkling of plump, juicy capers, big tomato wedges and arugula.

An equally to-die-for sweet and salty Squash Feta Walnut Salad ($1.99 per 100g) — an item whipped up that day on a gourmet whim — completed the thrilling lunch.

Note: The Confit Albacore Tuna Baguette was a special and is not always available, although my faith in other options is steadfast.

- **The Dirty Apron Delicatessen**
- **540 Beatty St.**
- **604-879-8588**
- **dirtyapron.com/deli**
- **Hours: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., daily**
- **Rating: *****
- **Take-out: Yes**
- **Dine-in: Yes**
- **Large groups: Yes**
- **Licensed: No**

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Sears

The season to sparkle

ISTOCK

Top toys

Find out what children around the world are hoping to see under their Christmas trees this year. {page 24}

Gifts that glitter

Great gifts for that special lady in your life.
{page 30}

2 days until Dec. 25

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19+ YEARS

Top toys around the world

What's the most popular gift for young ones, and the young-at-heart? We asked local retailers in 14 different countries. Some have real Buzz.

UNITED STATES, UNITED KINGDOM, SPAIN

JET PACK BUZZ LIGHTYEAR

Why popular: Sorry Dad, he doesn't actually fly, but the jetpack makes whirring sounds, and the laser is movie-accurate. Plus: He says things from "Toy Story 3."
(SOURCE: TOYS R US; BRITAIN'S TOY RETAILERS ASSOCIATION; JUGUETERIA FANTASIA)

HOLLAND

MINI-KITCHEN BY MIELE

Why popular: This toy oven has more features than your own, and plays music, too.
(SOURCE: BART SMIT)

SWEDEN, ITALY, FRANCE

PAPER JAMZ ELECTRIC GUITAR

Why popular: Black Sabbath. Judas Priest. Lady Gaga. Kids can play anything on this paper-thin, battery-operated guitar.
(SOURCE: METRO SWEDEN; LITTLE BIG TOWN; GRAND PRIX DU JOUET)

CANADA

BARBIE VIDEO GIRL WITH BUILT-IN VIDEO CAMERA

Why popular: You can record up to 30 minutes of movie, via a camera hidden in Barbie's chest. Very cool but a little creepy.
(SOURCE: CANADIAN TOY ASSOCIATION; ONE OF 108 HOT TOYS)

MEXICO

DINO VALLEY TOY SETS

Why popular: Kids can act out "Jurassic Park" in the safety of their own home.
(SOURCE: MERCERIA DEL REFUGIO)

BRAZIL

LIV DOLLS

Why popular: Barbie is a nerd compared to these fashionistas, who shop, skateboard and rock out after getting their nails done.
(SOURCE; RIHAPPY)

SOUTH AFRICA

OREGON SMARTGLOBE

Why popular: Touch the pen to any country and you'll hear interesting facts, updatable online.
(SOURCE: REGGIE'S)

AUSTRALIA

BEYBLADE METAL FUSION BATTLE TOP

Why popular: String a ripcord through the top and these discs spin around, knock one another off the table.
(SOURCE: TOYS R US AUSTRALIA)

HONG KONG

BANDAI BEN 10 LEGACY OMNITRIX

Why popular: The "Ben 10" anime series follows a kid who wears an Omnitrix, the ultimate weapon, on his wrist.
(SOURCE: TOYS R US HONG KONG)

RUSSIA

WELLY DIE-CAST TOY CARS

Why popular: Do you have to ask? Everyone wants a Lamborghini.
(SOURCE: DETSKY MIR)

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POTTERYBARNKIDS.CA

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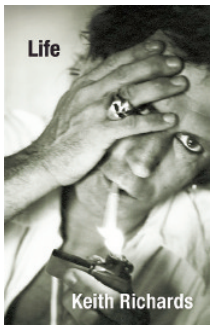
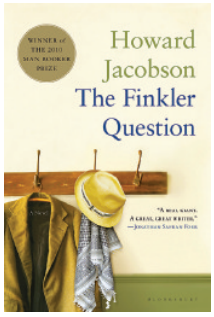
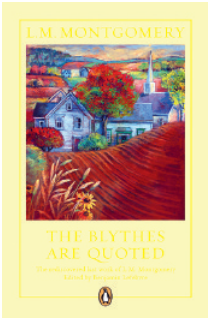
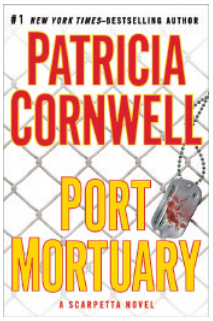
For your bookworm...









LIFE, BY KEITH RICHARDS

A critically-acclaimed autobiography by one of the world's best-known rock stars. $16.99 at Amazon.ca.

COAL BUST KISSES, BY WILL FERGUSON

A rich, layered Christmas memoir which spans generations, told with warmth and humour. $16 at major retailers.

THE FINKLER QUESTION, BY HOWARD JACOBSEN

A scorching story of friendship and loss, exclusion and belonging, and of the wisdom and humanity of maturity, told with humour and poise. $18.50 at major retailers.

THE BLYTHES ARE QUOTED, BY L.M. MONTGOMERY

The last, previously-unpublished work of fiction by the author of Anne of Green Gables contains 15 short stories dealing with darker themes of adultery, revenge, murder and death. $14 at major retailers.

THE SHERLOCKIAN, BY GRAHAM MOORE

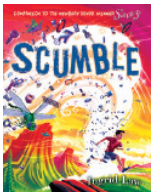
A detective-story-within-a-detective-story that delves into the history of Sherlock Holmes and his creator Arthur Conan Doyle. $32 at major retailers.

PORT MORTUARY, BY PATRICIA CORNWELL

The eighteenth novel in Patricia Cornwell's popular forensic science series sees heroine Kay Scarpetta embroiled in a case that could ruin her professional career and personal life. $32.50 at major retailers.

RAF BRUSILOW

For the kids



Scumble by Ingrid Law

A fast-paced adventure in the legendary Wild West filled with Ingrid Law's signature heart and humour. $21 at major retailers

Snowmen at Christmas by Caralyn Buehner

The book offers a funny look at what snowmen do when Christmas arrives. $8.50 board book, $24 hardback at major retailers.

RAF BRUSILOW

...and your moviephile

ROBIN HOOD

Russell Crowe and Cate Blanchett revisit the swashbuckling classic. Blu-Ray + DVD disc + digital copy, $29.99 at major retailers.

GREEN ZONE

Matt Damon reunites with Bourne Ultimatum director Paul Greengrass. Blu-Ray + digital copy, $32.99 at major retailers.

DEVIL

Five people are trapped in an elevator in this tension-filled supernatural thriller. Blu-Ray, $29.99 at major retailers. RAF BRUSILOW

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MV

Stuff for all your men

Hair, face and body care gifts for the fellas from Janine Falcon

1

La Mer The Lip Balm, $58
Sure this lightly minty smoothing and softening protective balm is a splurge. Think of it as an investment in kissing. If you like that sort of thing.
Holt Renfrew

2

Crabtree & Evelyn Nomad Hair & Body Wash, $20
He doesn't have to be a world traveller to appreciate the exotic sandalwood, ginger, citron and green bamboo notes in this energizing multi-tasker.
crabtreeniagara.ca

3

Origins Express Male Face Kit, $40
Blade Runner shave cream gives glide with natural oils; Fire Fighter calms with chamomile and cucumber; and Save the Males offers antioxidant hydration.
Select Bay stores.

4

Badger Muscle Rub, $18.35 (includes natural balm stick, not shown)
This natural balm preps muscles and joints for activity and soothes them afterward with cayenne pepper extract, and ginger, cardamom, rosemary and lemongrass oils. **Well.ca.**

5

John Varvatos 10th Anniversary Special Edition Fragrance, $97
With warm patchouli, amber and woody notes, this scent by menswear designer John Varvatos brings sexy back to the bureau as well as the man. **Department stores; Murale.**

6

Redken for Men 2 in 1 Clean Spice Conditioning Shampoo, $13.79
This morning pick-me-up wakes up the scalp and the senses as well as boosts hair manageability.
redken.ca for salons.

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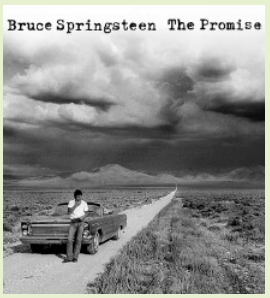
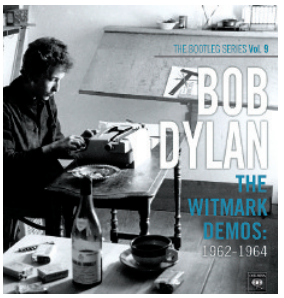
The sounds of the season



Bruce Springsteen The Promise $19.97 at Walmart

A collection of 21 previously unreleased tracks from the Darkness recording sessions from the quintessential American rocker.



Bob Dylan 1962-1964 Witmark Demos $18.99 at Amazon.ca

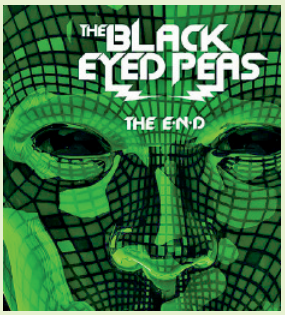
A two-CD collection of 47 stripped-down songs, 15 of which have never been released before by the legendary singer songwriter.

Nelly Furtado The Best of Nelly Furtado $18.74 at Walmart

Deluxe two-CD edition features Furtado's No. 1 smash hits, collaborations and three previously unreleased tracks.

Journey Revelation (2 CDs + 1 DVD) $11.88 exclusive at Walmart

The thirteenth studio album from '80s rock giants Journey comes with a DVD of live performances and packs in a total of 24 songs.



Black Eyed Peas The E.N.D. $13.74 at Walmart

The Peas' rocking fifth album features the hit songs Boom Boom Pow, Imma Be, Meet Me Halfway and I Gotta Feeling.

Paul McCartney and Wings Band On The Run $23.99, Amazon.ca

A digitally remastered and expanded three-CD edition of the former Beatle's 1973 album.

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The tipping point

Tip postie, dog walker, hairdresser with vino — especially chosen

That's the suggestion of noted Canadian wine writer, speaker and judge Natalie MacLean, who is no slouch at choosing the right vino to fit the recipient's personality.

"I wanted to find a way to approach wine that is fun, takes the snobbery out of it and gives drinkers more confidence," she said in an interview.

"Once I had the notion about all those people who we tip, or unusual people who provide service all year around, 'I thought, let's say thank you with a bottle of wine.'"

MacLean says that wine "is a little different than a monetary tip or a gift like candles and soap, which I am sure everyone is tired of."

If a large bottle of wine seems daunting, most liquor stores and wine outlets have half-sized bottles of everything from red and white to sparkling wines which she suggests pairing with a corkscrew or wine book.

It's always wise to make sure the gift is something the recipient will appreciate and that the person isn't an abstainer for religious or health reasons.

Here, from her recent blog, are several wine suggestions for those who serve you faithfully.

Hairdresser: For the person who combines humour and optimism, go for a light gulpable wine like a dry rosé.

Mail deliverer: Choose a winery that is consistent year after year in producing a tipple that can be enjoyed in snow, rain, sleet or hail. Try an Australian Shiraz or Argentine Malbec.

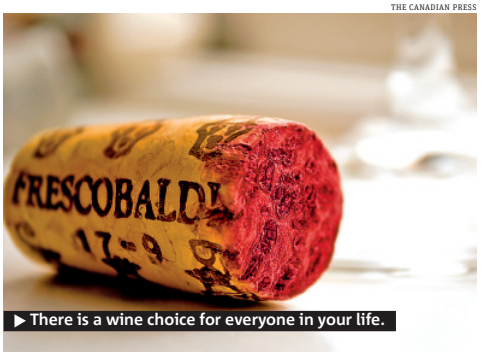
Personal trainer: Think a muscular, robust red would work? Hold that position. Instead, try Riesling as this light white wine pairs well with a healthnut diet of salad and seafood, plus it is low in alcohol.

Financial planner: Sticking to a long-term view, vintage port makes the perfect gift.

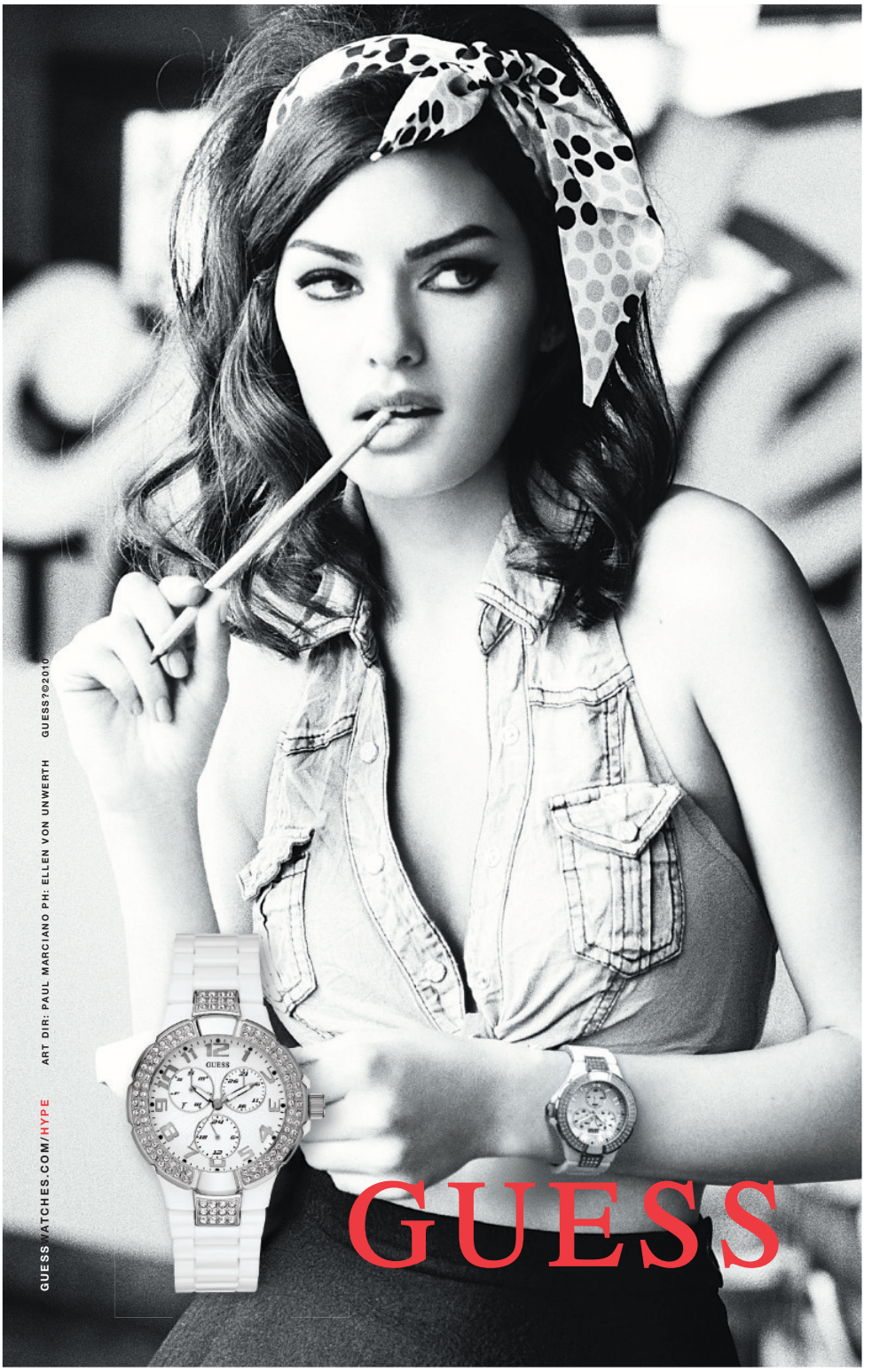
"This fortified wine from northern Portugal with its long aging potential will be around for both of you into your retirements."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ There is a wine choice for everyone in your life.



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For those without a Metro the forecast calls for "I dunno," with a slight chance of "huhhhh?"
metro
News worth sharing.

holiday gifts that glitter

1 CALVIN KLEIN GLINT BRACELET, $150

A kiss on the wrist can be quite continental. The Bay.

2 GISELE NECKLACE, $200 WITH MATCHING EARRINGS

We must admit this elegant crimson-coloured stunner is high on our wish list. Swarovski.

3 CHUNKY NECKLACE, $29.95

Balance the delicate with this funky, chunky bead-and-rope combo. H&M.

4 ALEXIS BITTAR RING, $240

You will have a hard time finding a woman who doesn't go gaga over the New York-based artist's Lucite designs. In other words, it's a foolproof gift. Available through ekojewellery.com.

5 KURVE CLOCK NECKLACE, $28

We know. We're missing Flava Flav, too. Keep his memory alive with this lovely and functional charm necklace. Available thorugh kurvejewellery.com

6 TIFFANY SNOWMAN CHARM, $240

An adorable snowperson. Charmed, she's sure to be. Tiffany.

7 KNOT CHAIN EARRINGS, $58

Pick up a pair of these delightful danglies next time you pop in for a new party dress. French Connection.

8 NICOLE TEOTONIO FEATHERED NECKPIECE, $70

Nothing says dramatic like a large feathered neckpiece. Make that holiday party entrance like the diva you are. Available through kurvejewellery.com.

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Wings too much down the stretch

Canucks cough up lead with less than five minutes to go in third

WINGS	CANUCKS
5	4

Henrik Zetterberg's second goal of the game at 2:59 of overtime gave the Detroit Red Wings a 5-4 win over the Vancouver Canucks last night.

Nicklas Lidstrom's third-period power-play goal tied the game at 4-4. Zetterberg also added an assist on Lidstrom's goal. Danny Cleary and Valtteri Filppula also scored for Detroit. Brian Rafalski had three assists and Jimmy Howard stopped 35 shots.

Henrik and Daniel Sedin each had a goal and an assist and Mikael Samuelsson and Jeff Tambellini also scored for Vancouver. Ryan Kesler had two assists and Roberto Luongo made 40 saves.

Zetterberg's winner came on a slap shot from the left circle for his 12th goal. Lidstrom's power-play goal at 16:06 of the third period tied the game 4-4. It came off a rebound for his eighth goal of the season.

Tambellini's shot from the right faceoff circle at 12:10 of the third gave the Canucks a 4-3 lead. It was Tambellini's seventh goal.

Zetterberg tied the game at 3 at 1:54 of the third period when his backhand shot from the side of the net went in off Luongo.

Samuelsson broke a 2-2 tie at 19:39 of the second period. He beat Howard from the left circle for his seventh goal. The play was set up by Brad Stuart's turnover just inside the Vancouver blue-line.

Daniel Sedin's power-play goal at 11:21 of the second period tied the game at 2. He poked in a loose puck from the crease for his 17th goal.

Red Wings star centre Pavel Datsyuk is expected to miss at least four weeks because of a broken bone in his right wrist.

He left late in the first period after tripping over Mikael Samuelsson and landing on his right hand.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RICK OSENTOSKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Vancouver's Alex Burrows checks Detroit's Daniel Cleary in the second period in Detroit last night.

4 sports

Quoted

"I understand I'm going to get asked this question frontways, sideways, backways, and all this, but it is a personal matter."

NEW YORK JETS COACH REX RYAN, ON A REPORT POSTED BY THE SPORTS WEBSITE DEADSPIN THAT SHOWS FOUR FOOT-FETISH VIDEOS OF A WOMAN WHO BEARS A CLOSE RESEMBLANCE TO RYAN'S WIFE, MICHELLE.

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Philadelphia	35	22	8	2	3	117	87	49	12-6-0-2	10-2-2-1	7-2-0-1	L1
d-Washington	36	20	12	2	2	109	100	44	13-4-1-2	7-8-1-0	2-6-1-1	W2
d-Montreal	34	19	13	2	0	89	77	40	12-5-2-0	7-8-0-0	4-5-1-0	L2
Pittsburgh	35	23	10	2	0	115	81	48	12-6-1-0	11-4-1-0	8-2-0-0	W2
Tampa Bay	34	19	10	3	2	105	111	43	10-2-1-1	9-8-2-1	7-1-1-1	L1
Atlanta	36	19	12	1	4	117	104	43	10-7-0-2	9-5-1-2	6-2-0-2	L1
NY Rangers	35	20	14	1	0	105	91	41	8-8-1-0	12-6-0-0	6-4-0-0	L1
Boston	32	17	11	1	3	89	68	38	8-6-1-2	9-5-0-1	5-3-1-1	L1
Carolina	32	15	13	0	4	90	99	34	7-5-0-1	8-8-0-3	4-3-0-3	L1
Buffalo	34	14	16	4	0	89	97	32	8-9-1-0	6-7-3-0	5-4-1-0	W1
Ottawa	35	14	17	3	1	81	106	32	8-9-1-1	5-8-2-0	3-4-2-1	L2
Florida	32	15	17	0	0	87	83	30	7-6-0-0	8-11-0-0	4-6-0-0	L1
Toronto	33	12	17	2	2	75	102	28	8-7-2-1	4-10-0-1	4-6-0-0	L3
NY Islanders	31	7	18	3	3	67	105	20	5-7-1-2	2-11-2-1	3-6-0-1	W1
New Jersey	33	9	22	1	1	59	103	20	5-8-1-1	4-14-0-0	2-8-0-0	L3

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Detroit	33	21	8	3	1	110	92	46	13-4-2-1	8-4-1-0	4-4-2-0	W1
d-Dallas	34	21	10	1	2	100	92	45	12-3-1-1	9-7-0-1	6-2-1-1	W3
d-Vancouver	32	19	8	3	2	105	83	43	11-3-1-1	8-5-2-1	6-2-2-0	L1
Colorado	34	19	11	4	0	121	110	42	10-5-1-0	9-6-3-0	6-2-2-0	L1
San Jose	34	18	11	4	1	102	95	41	9-4-2-1	9-7-2-0	6-3-0-1	W3
Chicago	36	19	14	2	1	115	104	41	11-9-0-0	8-5-2-1	6-3-1-0	W3
Nashville	33	17	10	4	2	84	83	40	8-2-3-2	9-8-1-0	7-2-1-0	L2
Anaheim	38	18	16	2	2	98	111	40	11-6-0-1	7-10-2-1	5-4-0-1	L1
Los Angeles	32	19	12	1	0	95	75	39	11-2-1-0	8-10-0-0	6-3-1-0	W1
Phoenix	32	15	10	4	3	89	93	37	6-4-2-2	9-6-2-1	4-4-0-2	L1
Columbus	33	17	13	2	1	85	91	37	9-8-0-1	8-5-2-0	4-5-1-0	W1
St. Louis	33	16	12	2	3	86	93	37	10-4-0-2	6-8-2-1	4-4-1-1	W1
Minnesota	32	15	13	1	3	79	91	34	8-7-0-2	7-6-1-1	5-3-1-1	W2
Calgary	35	14	18	1	2	92	103	31	9-7-0-0	5-11-1-2	4-5-0-1	L3
Edmonton	32	12	15	1	4	85	110	29	6-8-1-1	6-7-1-2	6-3-0-1	L1

d — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Last night's results
N.Y. Islanders 2 Tampa Bay 1 (OT)
Pittsburgh 5 Florida 2
Detroit 5 Vancouver 4 (OT)
Chicago 4 Nashville 1
Tuesday's results
Columbus 3 Calgary 1
Dallas 5 Montreal 2
San Jose 2 Edmonton 1
Buffalo 5 Anaheim 2
Los Angeles 5 Colorado 0
St. Louis 4 Atlanta 2
Washington 5 New Jersey 1
Tonight's games
All times Eastern
Atlanta at Boston, 7 p.m.
Florida at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Tampa Bay at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Washington, 7 p.m.
Montreal at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Vancouver at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Detroit at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Ottawa at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Calgary at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Edmonton at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.
Phoenix at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.
Tomorrow-Saturday
No Games Scheduled.

RED WINGS 5, CANUCKS 4 (OT)

First Period
1. Detroit, Cleary 15 (Bertuzzi, Rafalski) 8:12
Penalties — None.
Second Period
2. Vancouver, H.Sedin 7 (Kesler, D.Sedin) 1:11 (pp)
3. Detroit, V.Filppula 8 (Cleary, Ericsson) 6:29
4. Vancouver, D.Sedin 17 (Kesler, Ehrhoff) 11:21 (pp)
5. Vancouver, Samuelsson 7 (H.Sedin) 19:39
Penalties — Rafalski Det (cross-checking) 0:56, Bieksa Vcr (interference) 1:35, Holmstrom Det (high-sticking) 2:56, Samuelsson Vcr (interference) 6:57, V.Filppula Det (closing hand on puck) 10:33.
Third Period
6. Detroit, Zetterberg 11 (Kronwall, Salei) 1:54
7. Vancouver, Tambellini 7 (Kesler) 12:10
8. Detroit, Lidstrom 8 (Zetterberg, Rafalski) 16:06 (pp)
Penalties — Edler Vcr (high-sticking) 5:30, Burrows Vcr (cross-checking) 15:09.
Overtime
9. Detroit, Zetterberg 12 (Rafalski, Helm) 2:59
Penalties — None.
Shots

Vancouver	17	13	8	1—39
Detroit	14	11	19	1—45

Goal — Vancouver: Luongo (L,16-8-3); Detroit: Howard (W,18-6-2). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Vancouver: 2-3; Detroit: 1-4.
Referees — Chris Rooney, Don Van Massenhoven. **Linesmen** — Greg Devorski, Steve Miller.
Att. — 20,066 (20,066) at Detroit.

LATE TUESDAY

SHARKS 2, OILERS 1

First Period — No Scoring.
Penalty — Stortini Edm (goaltender interference) 3:18.
Second Period
1. San Jose, Couture 18 (Clowe) 13:15
2. San Jose, Boyle 4 (Marleau, Thornton) 16:43 (pp)
Penalties — Gilbert Edm (holding) 0:26, Wallin SJ (interference) 7:19, Nichol SJ (hooking) 8:07, Hall Edm (holding) 9:25, Whitney Edm (holding stick) 14:48.
Third Period
3. Edmonton, Penner 11 (Whitney, Hall) 18:01
Penalties — None.
Shots

Edmonton	5	9	13	—27
San Jose	5	17	8	—30

Goal — Edmonton: Khabibulin (L,8-12-2); San Jose: Niittymaki (W,12-3-3). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Edmonton: 0-2; San Jose: 1-4.
Referees — Gord Dwyer, Dennis LaRue. **Linesmen** — Lonnie Cameron, Brad Lazarowich.
Att. — 17,562 (17,562) at San Jose.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
Crosby, Pgh	28	30	58
Stamkos, TB	26	21	47
St. Louis, TB	13	30	43
Perry, Ana	19	22	41
D.Sedin, Vcr	17	23	40
B.Richards, Dal	16	23	39
Datsyuk, Det	12	27	39
Ovechkin, Wash	12	27	39
H.Sedin, Vcr	7	32	39
Eriksson, Dal	15	21	36
Getzlaf, Ana	13	23	36
Byfuglien, Atl	12	24	36
Zetterberg, Det	12	24	36
Roy, Buf	10	25	35
Sharp, Chi	18	16	34
Kopitar, LA	14	20	34

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Boston	23	4	.852	—
d-Miami	21	9	.700	3½
d-Chicago	18	9	.667	5
Atlanta	19	12	.613	6
New York	17	12	.586	7
Orlando	16	12	.571	7½
Indiana	13	14	.481	10
Milwaukee	11	16	.407	12
Philadelphia	11	18	.379	13
Detroit	10	19	.345	14
Toronto	10	19	.345	14
Charlotte	9	19	.321	14½
New Jersey	9	21	.300	15½
Cleveland	8	21	.276	16
Washington	7	20	.259	16

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-San Antonio	25	3	.893	—
Dallas	23	5	.821	2
d-L.A. Lakers	21	8	.724	4½
d-Utah	21	9	.700	5
Oklahoma City	20	10	.667	6
Denver	16	11	.593	8½
New Orleans	17	12	.586	8½
Portland	15	14	.517	10½
Houston	14	15	.483	11½
Phoenix	13	14	.481	11½
Memphis	12	17	.414	13½
Golden State	10	18	.357	15
L.A. Clippers	8	22	.267	18
Minnesota	6	24	.200	20
Sacramento	5	21	.192	19

d — division leader
Last night's results
Atlanta 98 Cleveland 84
Detroit 115 Toronto 93
Chicago 87 Washington 80
Boston 84 Philadelphia 80
New York 112 Oklahoma City 98
Utah 112 Minnesota 107
New Orleans 105 New Jersey 91
San Antonio 109 Denver 103
Houston 97 L.A. Clippers 92
Tuesday's results
Oklahoma City 99 Charlotte 81
Dallas 105 Orlando 99
Chicago 121 Philadelphia 76
New Jersey 101 Memphis 94
Golden State 117 Sacramento 109 (OT)
Milwaukee 98 L.A. Lakers 79
Tonight's games
All times Eastern
San Antonio at Orlando, 8 p.m.
Milwaukee at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
Miami at Phoenix, 10:30 p.m.

PISTONS 115, RAPTORS 93

DETROIT (115)
Prince 3-9 0-0 6, Villanueva 8-15 2-2 18, Wallace 1-2 2-4 4, Stuckey 9-15 3-3 21, Gordon 1-7 2-2 4, Monroe 2-3 3-3 7, McGrady 8-12 0-0 17, Hamilton 13-20 3-5 35, Maxiell 0-2 0-0 0, Bynum 1-1 0-0 3, Daye 0-4 0-0 0, Wilcox 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 46-90 15-19 115.
TORONTO (93)
Kleiza 7-11 4-4 19, Johnson 1-2 0-0 2, Bargnani 6-17 4-7 16, Calderon 1-6 2-2 5, DeRozan 4-7 2-2 10, Davis 4-5 2-3 10, Barbosa 7-12 4-5 21, Wright 3-4 0-0 6, Dorsey 2-2 0-0 4, Alabi 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 35-67 18-23 93.

Detroit	24	38	24	29—115
Toronto	23	21	24	25—93

3-Point Goals—Detroit 8-23 (Hamilton 6-10, Bynum 1-1, McGrady 1-2, Prince 0-1, Villanueva 0-2, Daye 0-2, Gordon 0-2, Stuckey 0-3), Toronto 5-14 (Barbosa 3-6, Kleiza 1-3, Calderon 1-4, Bargnani 0-1). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Detroit 44 (McGrady 7), Toronto 41 (Wright 6). Assists—Detroit 27 (McGrady 7), Toronto 26 (Calderon 13). Total Fouls—Detroit 18, Toronto 15. Technicals—Toronto defensive three second 2. A—15,303 (19,800) at Toronto.

LEAGUE LEADERS

SCORING AVERAGE

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Durant, OKC	25	221	210	690	27.6
Stoudemire, NYK	28	281	174	742	26.5
Bryant, LAL	29	255	194	745	25.7
Ellis, GOL	28	272	129	716	25.6
Nowitzki, DAL	28	256	149	687	24.5
James, MIA	30	244	203	729	24.3

Not including last night's games

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE

BOSTON RED SOX—Named Arnie Beyeler manager of Pawtucket (IL), Kevin Boles manager of Portland (EL), Bruce Crabbe manager, Kevin Walker pitching coach and Alex Ochoa hitting coach for Salem (Carolina), Dick Such pitching coach at Greenville (SAL), Carlos Febles manager and Paul Abbott pitching coach for Lowell (N.Y.-Penn), George Lombard manager and dave Tomlin pitching coach for Gulf Coast Red Sox.
KANSAS CITY ROYALS—Assigned INF Joaquin Arias and INF Lance Zawadzki outright to Omaha (AAA).
TAMPA BAY RAYS—Named Dave Eiland as a special assistant.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

HOUSTON ASTROS—Agreed to terms with LHP Gustavo Chacin on a minor-league contract.
MILWAUKEE BREWERS—Agreed to terms with RHP Sean Green and INF Craig Counsell on one-year contracts.
PITTSBURGH PIRATES—Designated RHP Joe Martinez for assignment. Named Dean Treanor manager of Indianapolis (IL), P.J. Forbes manager of Altoona (EL), Carlos Garcia of Bradenton (FSL), Gary Robinson manager of West Virginia (SAL), Dave Turgeon manager and Justin Meccage pitching coach for State College (NY-Penn), Brad Fischer advisor-player development, Frank Kremblas coordinator of instruction, Jeff Livesey hitting coordinator, Gary Green infield coordinator, Luis Dorante, Latin America field coordinator and Scott Mitchell assistant pitching coordinator.
SAN DIEGO PADRES—Named John Abbamondi vice president of strategy and business analysis.
WASHINGTON NATIONALS—Assigned LHP Matt Chico outright to Syracuse (IL).

BASKETBALL

NBA

CHARLOTTE BOBCATS—Announced the resignation of coach Larry Brown.
LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS—Signed F Ike Diogu.

FOOTBALL

NFL

ARIZONA CARDINALS—Placed WR Early Doucet on injured reserve. Signed LB Curtis Gatewood from the practice squad.
BUFFALO BILLS—Signed DB Brett Johnson to the practice squad.
CAROLINA PANTHERS—Signed FB Rashawn Jackson from the practice squad.
CINCINNATI BENGALS—Claimed TE Garrett Mills off waivers from Philadelphia.
CLEVELAND BROWNS—Placed TE Evan Moore on injured reserve.
DENVER BRONCOS—Placed FB Spencer Larsen on injured reserve. Signed G Stanley Daniels.
GREEN BAY PACKERS—Signed G Adrian Battles and S Michael Greco to practice squad. Placed WR Terrance Smith on practice squad-injured reserve.
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS—Placed WR Austin Collie on injured reserve.
MINNESOTA VIKINGS—Signed QB Rhett Bomar from the New York Giants practice squad. Waived QB R.J. Archer.
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS—Signed DL Landon Cohen. Released DL Louis Leonard.
SEATTLE SEHAWKS—Signed LB Michael Johnson from the Kansas City the practice squad. Signed LB Vuna Tuihalamaka to the practice squad. Placed DE Derek Walker on practice squad-injured reserve.
ST. LOUIS RAMS—Promoted LB Curtis Johnson from the practice squad. Signed WR Joe West to practice squad.
WASHINGTON REDSKINS—Placed DL Ma'ake Kemoeatu and DL Phillip Daniels on injured reserve. Signed LB Rob Jackson from the practice squad. Signed DL Darrion Scott. Signed DL Rashaad Duncan and OT Xavier Fulton to the practice squad. Released OT Jacob Bender from the practice squad.

HOCKEY

NHL

ANAHEIM DUCKS—Reassigned LW Josh Green to Syracuse (AHL).
NEW YORK ISLANDERS—Recalled F Josh Bailey from Bridgeport (AHL).
NEW YORK RANGERS—Recalled F Mats Zuccarello from Connecticut (AHL).
PHOENIX COYOTES—Recalled LW Mikkel Boedker from San Antonio (AHL). Placed LW Taylor Pyatt on injured reserve.

SOCCER

MLS

D.C. UNITED—Signed MF Andy Najar to a multiyear contract.
PHILADELPHIA UNION—Signed MF Zach Pfeffer.

SOCCER

GERMAY

GERMAN CUP

ROUND OF 16
First Leg
Yesterday's results
Stuttgart 3 Bayern Munich 6
Alemannia Aachen 1 Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Aachen wins 5-3 on penalties)
Wolfsburg 1 Energie Cottbus 3
Cologne 1 Duisburg 2

SPAIN

COPA DEL REY

ROUND OF 16
First Leg
Yesterday's results
Real Betis 1 Getafe 2
Atletico Madrid 1 Espanyol 0
Sevilla 5 Malaga 3
Almeria 4 Mallorca 3
Real Madrid 8 Levante 0

FRANCE

LIGUE 1

Yesterday's results
Arles 0 Nice 0
Brest 0 Marseille 0
Caen 1 Rennes 0
Lille 1 Saint-Etienne 1
Lyon 1 Auxerre 1
Monaco 2 Sochaux 1
Nancy 2 Paris Saint-Germain 0
Valenciennes 2 Toulouse 1
Bordeaux 2 Lens 2

HOCKEY

IIHF WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

At Buffalo and Lewiston, N.Y.
All times Eastern

PRELIMINARY ROUND

Sunday's games
At Buffalo, N.Y.
Germany vs. Switzerland, 12:30 p.m.
Russia vs. **Canada**, 4 p.m.
Finland vs. U.S., 8 p.m.
At Lewiston, N.Y.
Norway vs. Sweden, 4 p.m.
Monday's games
At Buffalo, N.Y.
Slovakia vs. Germany, 7 p.m.
At Lewiston, N.Y.
Czech Republic vs. Norway, 7 p.m.
Tuesday's games
At Buffalo, N.Y.
Switzerland vs. Finland, 12:30 p.m.
Canada vs. Czech Republic, 4 p.m.
U.S. vs. Slovakia, 8 p.m.
At Lewiston, N.Y.
Sweden vs. Russia, 7 p.m.

NFL

WEEK 16

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-New England	12	2	0	.857	446	303
N.Y. Jets	10	4	0	.714	295	259
Miami	7	7	0	.500	239	261
Buffalo	4	10	0	.286	273	353
SOUTH						
Indianapolis	8	6	0	.571	381	342
Jacksonville	8	6	0	.571	319	365
Tennessee	6	8	0	.429	322	282
Houston	5	9	0	.357	333	386
NORTH						
x-Pittsburgh	10	4	0	.714	307	220
Baltimore	10	4	0	.714	324	253
Cleveland	5	9	0	.357	252	271
Cincinnati	3	11	0	.214	281	362
WEST						
Kansas City	9	5	0	.643	322	281
San Diego	8	6	0	.571	388	260
Oakland	7	7	0	.500	353	330
Denver	3	11	0	.214	292	415

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	10	4	0	.714	412	339
N.Y. Giants	9	5	0	.643	360	288
Washington	5	9	0	.357	268	343
Dallas	5	9	0	.357	354	396
SOUTH						
x-Atlanta	12	2	0	.857	369	261
New Orleans	10	4	0	.714	354	270
Tampa Bay	8	6	0	.571	280	290
Carolina	2	12	0	.143	183	350
NORTH						
y-Chicago	10	4	0	.714	293	242
Green Bay	8	6	0	.571	333	220
Minnesota	5	9	0	.357	244	314
Detroit	4	10	0	.286	308	329
WEST						
St. Louis	6	8	0	.429	258	295
Seattle	6	8	0	.429	279	363
San Francisco	5	9	0	.357	250	314
Arizona	4	10	0	.286	255	370

x — clinched playoff berth.
y — clinched division.
Tonight's game
All times Eastern
Carolina at Pittsburgh, 8:20 p.m.
Saturday's game
Dallas at Arizona, 7:30 p.m.
Sunday's games
Tennessee at Kansas City, 1 p.m.
San Francisco at St. Louis, 1 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Baltimore at Cleveland, 1 p.m.
New England at Buffalo, 1 p.m.
Detroit at Miami, 1 p.m.
Washington at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Indianapolis at Oakland, 4:05 p.m.
Houston at Denver, 4:05 p.m.
San Diego at Cincinnati, 4:05 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Green Bay, 4:15 p.m.
Seattle at Tampa Bay, 4:15 p.m.
Minnesota at Philadelphia, 8:20 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 27
New Orleans at Atlanta, 8:30 p.m.

FOOTBALL

NCAA

U.S. COLLEGE BOWLS

Subject to Change
All Times Eastern
Last night's result
MAACO BOWL
At Las Vegas
Boise State 26 Utah 3
Tuesday's result
BEEF 'O' BRADY'S BOWL
At St. Petersburg, Fla.
Louisville 31 Southern Mississippi 28
Tonight's game
POINSETTIA BOWL
At San Diego, Calif.
San Diego State (8-4) vs. Navy (8-3), 8 p.m.

THE BEST THING TO HAPPEN TO THE IPHONE SINCE OUR LAST APP!
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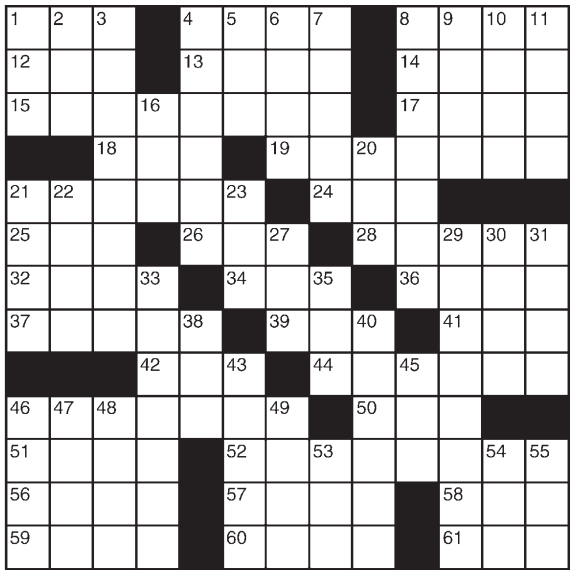
Crossword



Across

1 Jungfrau, for one
4 Docket entry
8 White spread
12 Vast expanse
13 Awestruck
14 Pinnacle
15 Fence for defense
17 Anatomical network
18 See 6-Down
19 Ache aid
21 Pluto, once
24 Historic boy king
25 Tease
26 Tear
28 Re Benedict XVI
32 Earthenware pot
34 Promptly
36 Tibetan monk
37 Commemorative pillar
39 Homer's interjection
41 Parcel of land
42 Winter ailment
44 Put the — on (stop)
46 Ocean motion
50 Toast topping
51 Curved moulding
52 One of Rome's seven hills
56 Evidenced a pinprick
57 Sweeping story
58 "Platoon" setting, for short
59 Missile shelter
60 Dweeb
61 Chances, for short

Down

1 Venomous viper
2 Meadow
3 Easily perceived
4 Friendly ghost
5 — Khan
6 With 18-Across, carbonated drink
7 Spew out
8 Wedlock-related
9 Unoriginal one
10 Bigfoot's cousin
11 The yoke's on them
16 Accelerator bit
20 Young seal
21 Experts
22 Springlike melody
23 Stannum
27 Spacecraft compartment
29 Cream-coloured horse
30 Andy's pal
31 Strip of wood
33 Fettuccine sauce
35 Moo goo gai pan pan
38 Hearty brew
40 Commandeer
43 Let off the hook?
45 Cudgel
46 Kernels' cores
47 Wrinkly citrus
48 Bobbin
49 Recording
53 Whopper
54 Siesta
55 Type measures

▶ Yesterday's answer

A	S	K		B	A	B	E		M	E	M	O		
L	E	O		A	N	O	N		I	R	A	N		
U	R	N		C	A	N	D	I	D	A	T	E		
M	A	G	M	A			S	A	W					
			O	R	B	S		M	A	R	C	H		
V	A	L	I	D	A	T	E		Y	A	L	E		
A	L	A		I	R	A	Q	I		G	O	B		
M	O	I	L		I	N	U	N	D	A	T	E		
P	E	C	O	S		D	I	C	E					
			C	U	E			H	E	I	S	T		
L	I	Q	U	I	D	A	T	E		O	U	R		
O	N	U	S		E	P	I	C		W	B	A		
G	N	A	T		N	E	C	K		A	S	P		

Sudoku

4		8		7	2			9
	5		8					2
	2		1				3	
5							8	
		9	7		3	1		
	1							4
	6				5		7	
1					6		2	
8			2	9		3		

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

2	8	7	6	3	5	4	1	9
6	9	3	1	2	4	7	8	5
4	1	5	9	8	7	2	6	3
3	4	1	5	7	2	6	9	8
7	6	8	4	9	3	1	5	2
5	2	9	8	6	1	3	4	7
9	7	6	3	4	8	5	2	1
1	3	4	2	5	9	8	7	6
8	5	2	7	1	6	9	3	4

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Ducky, I can't wait to be your husband. St. Paddy's Day can't come fast enough. I am truly lucky to have such a sexy, amazing, caring woman like you. I am all in.
Love **NICK**

Jessie, Mamichula. The way you transcend from my dreams to the first thought as i wake up every morning should make the headlines of every paper worldwide. You are the cuddle to my hug, the kiss to my lips and the reflection of my true loves intention.
Te amo. **RUBEN – PAPI**

My Bella, In you I have found the love of my life. My heart skips a beat when you're near, and I am nothing but thankful for having you to share with. Looking forward to a wonderful future with you. Truly, madly, deeply.
CHRIS

Today 7°/5° Rain 90%
Friday 9°/6° Rain 90%
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The Weather Network
TWN incorporates MSC data

Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 Your mind may be turning to fun and festivities but this is still the ideal time to get on the good side of employers and people in positions of authority. Let them know you work hard.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 The old days are over and there is no going back. Once you accept that fact you will find that a whole new world of possibilities opens up to you, a world that has always been there but which you were too blind to see.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 You need help with your money situation and if you don't speak up right away you are unlikely to get it. Confide in those you trust and, most importantly, take their advice.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Be gentle and generous with friends and family members. No matter how many times in the past you may have fallen out you will get along brilliantly today and over the holiday period.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 Take life at a more relaxed and enjoyable pace. You've done as much as you can for the time being and now you have every right to cut back on your busy schedule and enjoy the next few days.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 You've had more than your share of up and downs in recent weeks but now everything will smooth out again, at least for a while.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 Home and family matters will be less of a burden than they have been of late. Your problems won't just disappear, of course, but they won't seem quite so important any more.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 If you stay at home by yourself or spend all your time on your work you will reduce your options considerably and miss out on opportunities in the wider world.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Forget about dollars and cents and have a good time. If you can't have fun at this time of year when can you? Your financial situation may not be perfect but neither is it disastrous.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 You may be acutely concerned with your status and reputation but every now and then you go to the other extreme and play the fool, just for laughs. Today will bring out the comedian in you.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Listen to your inner voice and act on what it tells you, even though a dozen other voices say you should be doing the opposite. Do what your heart says is right and proper.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20 Express your opinions openly and honestly. Some people may be offended but that just shows you are on the right track, that your criticisms have found the target. SALLY BROMPTON

CHRISTOPHE ENA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, FILE

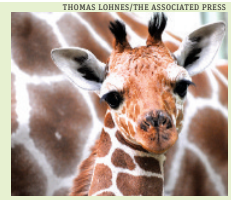
Caption contest

WIN!

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image to the right and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

THOMAS LOHNES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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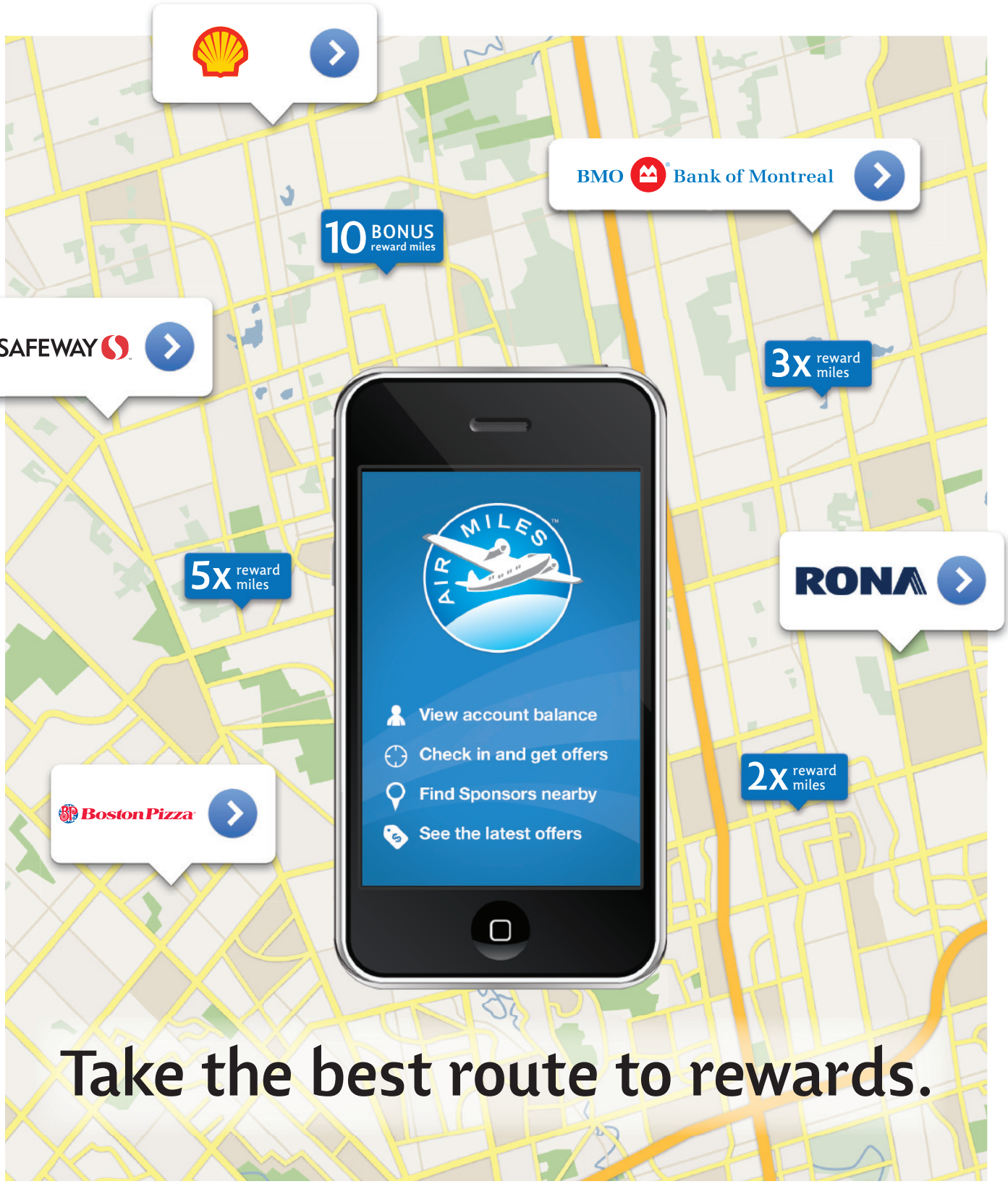

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